

Message Text

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PAGE 01 RABAT 06791 201701Z
ACTION NEA-10

INFO OCT-01 ISO-00 ERDA-05 AID-05 CEA-01 CIAE-00 CIEP-01
DODE-00 EB-07 FEAE-00 FPC-01 H-01 INR-07 INT-05 L-03
NSAE-00 NSC-05 OMB-01 PM-04 USIA-06 OES-06 SP-02
SS-15 STR-04 TRSE-00 ACDA-07 PA-01 PRS-01 XMB-02 /101 W
----- 069325 /73

R 201630Z DEC 76
FM AMEMBASSY RABAT
TO SECSTATE WASHDC 570
INFO USDOC WASHDC
AMCONSUL CASABLANCA

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E.O. 11652: N/A
TAGS: ENRG MO
SUBJECT: SIGNING OF ESSO/SNPP SETTLEMENT

REF: CASABLANCA 1278

1. FINAL AGREEMENT ON ESSO AFRICA SALE OF ITS MOROCCAN
OPERATIONS TO THE SOCIETE NATIONALE DES PRODUITS
PETROLIERS (SNPP) SIGNED DECEMBER 17, 1976 IN RABAT.
AMCONSUL CASABLANCA DISCUSSIONS WITH ESSO REPS REVEALED
NO SUBSTANTIVE CHANGE FROM SETTLEMENT TERMS OUTLINED
REFTEL.

2. AT LUNCHEON FOLLOWING SIGNING CEREMONY AMBASSADOR
INFORMED BY MINISTER OF COMMERCE GHISSASSI THAT THIS
WAS FIRST TIME IN THREE YEARS IN OFFICE THAT HE HAD EVER
GIVEN OR ATTENDED A MEAL FOR A FOREIGN COMPANY. GHISSASSI,
WHO PLAYED A KEY ROLE IN THE NEGOTIATIONS, CONGRATULATED
ESSO AFRICA PRESIDENT VASTOLA ON BEING A FAIR AND JUST
NEGOTIATOR, A COMPLIMENT RETURNED BY VASTOLA. IN WARM
ATMOSPHERE OF POST-SIGNING LUNCH, GHISSASSI UNDERLINED
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HIS INTEREST IN RESOLVING THE FEW REMAINING DISPUTES
WHICH AFFECT INVESTMENT CLIMATE, SPECIFICALLY HOLIDAY
INN AND LAND RECOVERY CASES. HE REITERATED GOM
INTEREST IN ENCOURAGING U.S. FIRMS TO ESTABLISH OPERATIONS
IN MOROCCO.

3. A SENIOR MEMBER OF MINISTER GHISSASSI'S STAFF
REVEALED THAT MINISTER PLANS TO VISIT U.S. IN LATE
FEBRUARY OR MARCH. MINISTER SUBSEQUENTLY TOLD
AMBASSADOR HE HAD CHOSEN THIS TIMING AFTER HAVING BEEN
ADVISED TO WAIT UNTIL THE NEW ADMINISTRATION WAS IN
PLACE. WE ASSUME, AND MINISTER IMPLIED, THAT HE WILL
USE THIS OPPORTUNITY TO DISCUSS FINANCING OF SONASID
NADOR STEEL MILL COMPLEX WITH EXIM AND IBRD.
ANDERSON

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NNN

Message Attributes

Automatic Decaptioning: X
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Concepts: NATIONALIZATION, DISPUTE SETTLEMENT, TAX AGREEMENTS, ROYALTIES
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Draft Date: 20 DEC 1976
Decaption Date: 01 JAN 1960
Decaption Note:
Disposition Action: RELEASED
Disposition Approved on Date:
Disposition Authority: greeneet
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04 MAY 2006

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Status: NATIVE
Subject: SIGNING OF ESSO/SNPP SETTLEMENT
TAGS: ENRG, MO, ESSO AFRICA INC
To: STATE
Type: TE
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